NBC NIGHTLY NEWS -CAMPAIGN 2000 REPORTS - AUGUST 2000

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From AUGUST 2000 NBC NIGHTLY NEWS reports from campaign 2000.

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back here in Philadelphia part of tonight will be devoted to tributes to former Republican presidents and nominees presidents Ford President Reagan represented by Nancy President Bush the father and Bob Dole the presidential nominee four years ago and as NBC David Gregory tells us from the campaign trail tonight for the Bush family this is now becoming an open feud with President Clinton David well Tom on this carefully scripted day during this carefully scripted week the last thing that was on the agenda was a public war of words between governor Bush and President Clinton but tonight governor Bush is speaking a lot war about Bill Clinton than his opponent Al Gore aboard his new campaign plane headed for Pennsylvania today bush fires back at the president who four days ago at a fundraiser mocked the texas governor's credentials listing among them quote my daddy was president it's amazing to me that the president united states would would would would spend time trying to be a political pundit he is so desperate to have his legacy intact by getting Al Gore elected he'll say anything just like Al Gore will president bush weighs in to during an exclusive interview with the Today Show's Jamie Ganga I'm gonna wait a month then you give me a call I'll give you the home number and if he continues that then I'm gonna tell the nation what I think about him is a human being and a person mr. president president Park seems pretty upset with you today Clinton waved off questions about a feud between him and the bushes but the truth is this faceoff has been brewing for some time governor Bush has repeatedly invoked the Lewinsky scandal on the campaign trail in the president's home state recently praising his running mate Dick Cheney he's a man who understands what the definition of is is mush maintains he's merely reflecting public opinion an honor and dignity in the White House is an issue in the so much so in fact Bush advisors

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so much so in fact Bush advisors promised more attacks on Clinton's morality and leadership during the governor's acceptance speech Thursday night only they call it quote Nederland NBC News in depth tonight a staple of every political convention the parties whether they're honoring a state delegation or an influential member of Congress the parties are virtually all sponsored by corporations and special interests who want something or who have gotten something from the government and despite all the talk about campaign finance reform this primary season the convention party season here in Philadelphia is bigger and more expensive than ever before NBC's Lisa Myers in-depth Senate what makes many Republicans feel this way this week money at least 49 million dollars allowing them to party with the temptations and live it up record amounts of money pouring in here and for the Democratic convention in Los Angeles later this month turning both into unabashedly lavish extravaganzas it looks like the most powerful special interest in America have a very captive audience and a very very schmooze e smarmy four or five day party going on and we're not invited the money pays for parties and to help run the convention itself the biggest donors General Motors a million dollars including the fleet of cars Microsoft a million including software AT&T a million including cell phones major corporations are all here with the same agenda which is trying to help people understand what their major issues are it's called paying to play all entirely legal critics say it's buying access and influence the

amway corporation provided a hundred seventy foot yacht for big contributors to party union pacific gave 1.5 million businesses are finding more and more that you know you have to be out there playing which means out their pain

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playing which means out their pain somepony enough to provide special round-the-clock services to members of congress a party trained near the convention hall golf carts to ferry members back and forth and of course limos and drivers at their disposal members of congress were complaining they didn't have enough limos the red carpet treatment for congress provided by the man known as the hammer house with his mom delay the declines to disclose his donors you're spending almost a million dollars to provide these services to members where's the money coming from from a whole lot of stores corporations individuals it's better than having the taxpayers paper critics say it's hardly a surprise that campaign finance reform is not high on the Republican agenda even the champion of reform Senator John McCain has fallen silent and has no plans to specifically mention it in tonight's speech Lisa Myers NBC News Philadelphia it's one thing to talk about these issues from the podium it's quite another to campaign on them joining me now is the NBC Washington bureau chief and moderator of Meet the Press Tim Russert John McCain tonight is going to talk about cynicism and restoring the ideals of American democracy last night we heard a remarkable speech from : powell in which he lectured these Republican delegates about a number of issues that affect minorities Tim let's listen just to what he had to say about affirmative action then talk about that if they summon our party miss no opportunity to roundly and loudly condemn affirmative action that helped a few thousand black kids get an education but you hardly hear a whimper when it's affirmative action for lobbyists who load our federal tax code with preferences for special interest that's a very powerful statement but do you think these dollars are gonna leave the hall and say you know what he turned me around on affirmative action Tom I spoke to several today one put it this way what did you think of the generals performance and I said fine what did you think of what he said he said well it's okay that he has those thoughts but they're not gonna be in our platform and

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they're not gonna be in our platform and that's the bottom line Republicans will now see it's safe to think like : Paul but that's not the majority view of this party and George have your voice is not going to take that message on to the on to the trail once he leaves here either no he'll praise the general he'll praise his comments but he'll not adopt that philosophy as his own the other thing that general Powell talked about was prison and I'd like to roll that clip and have a chance to talk about it we either get back to the task of building our children the way we know how or we're going to keep building jails in America and it's time to stop building jails in America and get back to the task of building our children listen very carefully our children are not the problem they are our future that will come as a surprise to a lot of Republicans who've worked very hard in state legislatures from the governor's offices from the mayor's office and in Congress to build more prisons and build more jails saying the answer is to put these kids away the law and order party three strikes and you're out and Colin Powell's saying we have two million people in prison Tom one out of every three black men 18 to 35 in prison or on parole that is a sobering statistic and something the next president Democrat Republican has to deal with George every Bush did make quite a remarkable speech before the n-double-a-cp earlier this year saying we've got to get together but do you think that this will become a continuing theme in his campaign I think it has to be once he gets out of this convention hall because if he wants to win this election he must increase the number of minorities voting for the Republican ticket and the only way to do that is speak the language they I clearly understand and that is he identifies with the problems that they're encountering all right Tim Russert we'll be seeing it later tonight on MSNBC of course and a tour tonight is focused on the condition of former President Gerald our forward he's hospitalized here after suffering two strokes one overnight following his visit to the convention hall last night his prognosis is excellent but nonetheless there are continuing concerns for this 87 year old

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continuing concerns for this 87 year old man who led the nation out of Watergate NBC's Andrea Mitchell has been following this story since it broke early this morning Andrea what's the latest Tom doctors say that the former president is improving today showing signs of recovery with a very good prognosis but does continue to have some mild problems with speech and balance the 87 year old former president looking pale and a little unsteady leaving the hospital shortly before 2 o'clock this morning pointing to his head a sinus problem he thought the doctors gave him antibiotics to clear his ears so he could fly home to call Oh today he returns to his hotel seven hours later 9 a.m. he's back in the hospital feeling worse the diagnosis not just a sinus problem but actually also a small stroke two days ago and then another one today so the circulation at the base of the brain he's doing well his little trouble with his balance and professionally is being studied for the cause of his stroke only last night the Republican convention paid tribute to Gerald and Betty Ford an emotional moment but he had not been feeling well for three days an earache and a bad cold he told me during an interview on the convention floor last night he was focused criticizing both Bill Clinton and George W Bush for recent bickering his mind clearer but his speech slow and slurred what kind of partisanship is counterproductive it will not be helpful to either candidate at the hospital today his wife Betty described as very upset the former president clear-headed I'm very happy report that President Ford is improving he's much better than he was this morning until now Ford has been in remarkably good health lives an active life after replacing both knees is back playing

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replacing both knees is back playing nine holes of golf gives speeches holds conferences he's always been a workhorse he's always been a person who gets up early and gets at it and likes to to do things and get things done we love the man and he's long time friend I worked for him when I was director CIA and we were with him of course last night and we just hope that it goes as well as the doctors seemed to indicate it would doctors say it was Jerry Ford himself who wanted to leave the hospital after first seeking help at the time they saw no reason to keep him but now it appears he will be hospitalized for at least five days Tom thanks very much NBC's Andrea Mitchell tonight strokes of course are very common and they can also be deadly the key to effective treatment is catching a stroke early which as we've seen today with President Ford can be difficult NBC dr. Bob Arnot joins us now Bob what's your diagnosis of this whole case Tom doctors admitted that they missed the diagnosis last night when the former president came into the emergency room but vigorously defended their treatment President Ford now joins four million Americans who have survived a stroke the first clue of a stroke often slurred speech like President Ford's last night in this interview with NBC's Andrea Mitchell Beverly and I are thrilled to be here other warning signs include the sudden onset of numbness or weakness in the face an arm or leg trouble speaking or understanding confusion trouble seeing trouble walking dizziness or loss of balance or severe headache strokes have flex 600,000 patients each year killing 160,000 the third leading cause of death so how does a stroke occur part of the brain is destroyed either by a blood clot traveling there or a blood vessel damaged and bleeding that can occur here in these blood vessels supplying the front of the brain or as in Ford's case this one supplying the rear doctors can prevent the damage from

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rear doctors can prevent the damage from some strokes like this one caused by a blood clot if they make the diagnosis within three hours by brain scan one troubling question how could doctors miss the diagnosis of stroke it's very common most patients see their primary care physicians rather than a neurologist and the initial signs can be actually quite subtle it's unclear which doctors soft board last night but tonight they're searching for the underlying cause of President Ford's stroke to prevent further damage there's a good likelihood that additional strokes may occur the fact that to have occurred suggests that a process is going on that probably isn't over yet tonight doctors are trying to prevent another stroke by treating him with anticoagulants each presidential illness teaches us a new lesson about our own health in presidents Ford's case it's get to the hospital as quickly as possible with the first sign of a brain attack or stroke now often Tom you know doctors may be accused of missing the diagnosis but more often than not it's the patient who fails to recognize the early warning signs making a life-or-death difference huh thanks very much dr. Bob are now

tonight and obviously Betty Ford played a key role for the doctor who was diagnosing the president as she described his condition that's a clue for family members the hospitalization of President Ford was an unsettling interruption of these carefully scripted ceremonies at the GOP convention it does resume tonight with the official nomination of governor Bush and a speech by his running mate Dick Cheney NBC David Gregory has been traveling with the governor to Philadelphia David well Tom the news about President Ford dampened the excitement surrounding Bush's arrival a little bit but the governor did manage to make a splashy entrance tonight however who maintained a low profile a private dinner with the entire Bush family before sitting back and watching his running mate Dick Cheney formally accept the nomination for Vice President arriving in downtown Philadelphia today

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arriving in downtown Philadelphia today Bush declares to a crowd of mainly Latino supporters vamos a ganar vamos I got nada noviembre with your help we will win in November Bush says brandishing his fluency in Spanish and delivering a message he hopes will reach other minority voters too as Republicans desperately seek to project a diverse inclusive image during the convention here also on stage to greet and embrace the governor Arizona Senator John McCain who has full heartedly encouraged the crucial independent voters he attracted during the primaries to now support the Texas governor senator I can't wait to campaign with you all across our country there's a better day for America there's a better day for all Bush is clearly enjoying center stage at the convention I accept your nomination and this afternoon for the first time the governor tours the convention hall where tomorrow night he delivers the most important speech of his political career but tonight a tick Chaney who takes center stage and will take a hard line against the clinton-gore administration saying they have missed eight years of opportunities and he'll also say quote it's time for them to go Tom thanks very much NBC's David Gregory tonight Jerald force hospitalization today is one more reminder of the place of our presidents in the American family one of those former presidents can't be here of course that's Ronald Reagan suffering from advanced Alzheimer's but his wife Nancy and his daughter Maureen were here last night for the tribute to him and I talked to Maureen about the condition and the care of her father Marina is that hard for you to come to a Republican National Convention and not have your father physically here with you oh absolutely how's he doing well he does well but the

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how's he doing well he does well but the disease gets worse he does what we asked him to do he goes for walks he goes he swims he you know he he gets physical exercise but the disease just takes its toll it starts out as not remembering dates and places but it ends up with physical deterioration but those genes are very strong I mean he's lived a long life from a physical point of view I think he would tell us that I think he would say you know I had because he always felt he had a great life and we just make sure that every day that he has left is filled with as much fun and spontaneity as it can be so that whatever is retained at the end of the day we know he's had the best day possible because he live in tirely in his own world now and it's off Livius to everything that is going on around him well his world gets smaller it's a spatial disease you start with a 600-acre ranch and you end up in the in the den and so it their world gets smaller and smaller and for a politician and the daughter of that politician that must be a pretty emotional adjustment to make I live with a very deep pain that I keep swallowed most of the time because I'm at war with Alzheimer's and I'm gonna win the war I will live long enough to see this disease defeated because it has it is killing my father and I'm going to get even marine Reagan tonight at the other end of the age spectrum there is here a young man whose grandfather was president his dad is governor of Florida and his uncle will be the Republican Party presidential nominee as for George P Bush well for young women his title is high but as NBC Kelly O'Donnell tells us tonight he has an important political role his name you know his face less

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role his name you know his face less familiar but all important for what it reflects youth and a Latino heritage making this George Bush a link to two of the most sought-after groups of voters the nation's fastest growing minority 30 million Hispanics and more than 10 million voters under 25 at 24 George Prescott Bush the fourth generation to enter the family business nephew of the Republican candidate George P gave up teaching high school history in Florida to practice grassroots politics weeks at a time on the road countless handshakes TV pitchman appealing to spanish-speaking voters phenomen a big welcome meal George Bush oldest son of Florida's governor jeb bush and his Mexican born wife Colombo being a Latino is only half of me but it's a proud of them it's a side that I'm very proud of it's it's there's a beautiful history there's a beautiful culture there does the family really call you P yeah they call me P with three George Bush's sometimes you need just one letter to distinguish between us but his grandfather used something else to distinguish George P as a child back in 1988 then Vice President Bush pointing out his grandchildren to the Reagan's at home you were referred to as one of a little brown ones by your grandfather that was controversial then would it be even more so today my grandfather is the sweetest most loving man that I know it was a term of endearment and I would call I would call my own crank it's that because that there's there's nothing as beautiful as brown skin Beauty noted by People magazine choosing George P as one of its 100 most eligible bachelors adding a celebrity style buzz to his uncle's campaign some people describe you as a secret weapon even a heartthrob

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weapon even a heartthrob what do you make of it if those kind of descriptions bring more people into the fold then then I think that's a good thing in Philadelphia serving as the conventions youth chairman I'm really proud to be a part of it to reach out to younger voters and to the Latino community and and we'll see if we can shake things up but he'll leave the campaign trail behind to pursue law school so this fall one George Bush heads to the University of Texas while another tries to take their famous name back to the White House Kelly O'Donnell NBC News New York in Philadelphia good evening tonight George W Bush who has been running for president for more than a year now a man who's twice been elected governor of Texas the eldest son of a former president will appear here in Philadelphia to thank his fellow Republicans for their support and to speak to the nation for the first time as the official presidential candidate of his party it is not an exaggeration to say this is the most important speech of his political life NBC's David Gregory David last night the last week the governor told me the early draft of the speech was way too long and too much about him as a change well Tom that's right it has been pared down but it still reads at about 45 minutes with all the expected applause and advisors say indeed governor Bush will talk a lot about himself his roots in Midland Texas how he met his wife Laura Bush his accomplishments but he's also going to take on the President and Al Gore he's going to reflect on their years in office with quote regret hours before the political high point of his life Bush visits the ailing President Ford who Bush says is recovering well after suffering two small strokes this week he gave me some pretty good advice he said you better practice but aides say the practicing is over the Texas governor appears loose saying he's ready for the conventions moment of high drama I know what I believe I know what I want to say I know

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believe I know what I want to say I know what I want America to hear and I'm just gonna give it my best shot and see what happens later he attends a luncheon honoring his wife Laura and naps in the afternoon beyond the political calculus this is an emotional day for the entire Bush family brother Jeb the Florida Governor says their father President Bush will be especially moved tonight he's wondering if he's gonna be able to get through the speech without crying I told him to let it rip go ahead that's not talking about crying and being proud so what was Bush accomplished tonight advisors stressed this is his chance to introduce himself and his leadership style to a large audience to tell his story and above all to emerge from the shadow of being a president son david gregory's report on george w bush will be speaking here tonight i'm joined here at the desk now by my colleague Tim Russert of the Washington bureau chief of NBC and of course my terator of Meet the Press every Sunday Tim this convention has been described as much more atonal convention than a policy convention don't we expect the speech to be pretty much the same tonight more about tone than

policy yes but George Bush understands Tom that he not only has to say this is why I want to be President he has to start laying out what a term his father didn't like a vision what he would do as president you have to give the American people a rationale to elect you and that you have the stature to be in that Oval Office and what you would do with the power if given it a lot of talk tonight about respect and dignity being restored to the Oval Office they believe that issue works that the values deficit still exists even though there's a surplus in terms of money Tim moe Vice President Gore is ending his vacation tonight next Tuesday in Tennessee he'll be announcing his vice presidential candidate we know that he has been handicapping that choice based

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has been handicapping that choice based on what's been going on here and who he has to run against and there was a very selective leak all day long to the reporters saying that the top three candidates are three senators John Kerry of Massachusetts joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and John Edwards of North Carolina two of those senators Kerry Lieberman come from states with Republican governors so if they won the Republican governor would appoint a Republican the place replaced them Edward from North Carolina has a Democratic governor they liked that but right now it's way too early Tom we don't think Al Gore's made a decision much less the press knowing about it Tim John McCain went home yesterday after greeting governor Bush here and there had that show of unity he said the other night with not a lot of enthusiasm but he did say the words I am very proud of him and I know him well I some of the bush people were saying we kind of phoned that one in but he went home now he's coming back yeah there are some still tensions between the staffs but the two men are trying to overcome that McCain is coming back he will be on the stage with Governor Bush tonight he says that I will do anything you want me to do said the event yesterday was my last event they want me to come back I'll be back I can also tell you Tom that Governor Bush and Senator McCain will campaign together in California Washington State Norgan and governor Bush and his wife will stay with the senator in his house in Arizona on August 12 so the kings are making up but the vassals are still fighting all right thank you very much Tim Russert moderator made the press every Sunday in our Washington bureau chief of course governor Bush's master political strategist Karl Rove says they have three primary targets in terms of voters for the fall campaign the suburban vote Catholics and Latinos and within all three groups of course women they are a big objective Bill Clinton one among women going away four years ago but at this stage this time the Texas governor is doing well why that vote here's NBC's Lisa Myers Bucks County Pennsylvania ground zero in the presidential race land of the middle class suburban women bushes targeting tonight once a Republican stronghold

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tonight once a Republican stronghold this county went for Bill Clinton the last two elections because of women like Republican Kim Journey a teacher who says she found her own party too scary and like Democrat patty : an administrative assistant with two children both say this year is different what about George W Bush makes you want to consider voting for him whereas you wouldn't vote for other Republicans I like his charisma yeah he just has a vigor of vitality about him he's enthusiastic ignited drawn in by enthusiasm but neither of these two Clinton voters is sold on Bush yet nor is Republican Elaine Gorman a school librarian with two grown children her advice to Bush be his own person run on his own merits but he did have a good father we know that but we need to see what he wants to do and you still need to be convinced that he has the ability to be President uh some what does anyone else here worry about Governor Bush's abilities with brain power you know I'm actually impressed with his hiring skills I think that shows that he knows how to hire a good height on the issues they say they're torn all think education is most important followed by social secur but they split on which candidates position they prefer Patty and Kim are pro-choice on abortion and kill worries Bush could endanger a woman's right to choose I do believe in a woman's choice but I'm scared that that could be taken away but it's clear that Bush has an advantage on something especially important to mothers values I do think that our children today need someone to look up to I think

we became a worldwide embarrassment mm-hmm I think we were a laughingstock you voted for Clinton pollsters say many women are having a tough time deciding this year favoring Bush one week and gore the next men are

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Bush one week and gore the next men are more much more stable and seem committed to George Bush women have real trouble in making a choice four years ago Bill Clinton beat Bob Dole among women by 16 points experts say for Bush to reverse that he must persuade women that he is indeed a different more caring kind of Republican he gets that chance tonight Lisa Myers NBC News Philadelphia when Governor George W Bush delivers his speech in this hall tonight no one will be watching with more pride and some anxiety than his campaigns chairman Don Evans not just because of his official title it's his unofficial title that counts here best friend they go back to Bush's bachelor days when Evans wife fed him and did his laundry Bush has moved on since then but their friendship is greater than ever George W Bush has a natural folksy way with a politician's instinct for the use of the word friend he's a friend as a candidate he rolls it out easily but in fact Bush has a small circle of real good friends mostly men and deeply loyal one stands out Donovan campaign chairman Don Evans a constant companion in good times and bad you were at that famous 40th birthday party for George W Bush now what and shortly after that he announced that he was giving up drinking forever cold turkey cold turkey that's surprising well you know I would only say to you that it didn't surprise me that he had the discipline in it to stop think it changed him yeah yeah he's a that better man because of it born a few weeks apart in 1946 both men have deep Texas roots and turn to oil to seek their fortunately did it ever occur to you during his bachelor day that one day he

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during his bachelor day that one day he would be the Republican nominee for president of the United States did I think when we met in the spring of 1975 he would one day be the nominee in a Republican Party and soon be the president of the United States I I can't tell you that I did but I can't tell you is the guy that I met early on I knew would always serve others Evans protects his friend with his answers hesitating only slightly when asked for examples of what he calls the governor's great mind at work how do you see his great mind at work what's the manifestation of that well I think I think the manifestation of it is most people who are sizing him up from the outside say look his strength is in his personality not intellectual curiosity is that a fair statement no it's not Tom they don't know him like I know him I mean he knows that you have to surround yourself with bright able people that you can trust Evans now the CEO of a big oil company has been at the governor's side all year long what did he learn from his controversial appearance at Bob Jones University in South Carolina be prepared you know he won't blame the staff I will I mean he wasn't ready if his friend does make it all the way to the White House Don Evans will likely go along from best friend to first best friend Nightly News for Thursday I'll see you starting at 8:00 Eastern on MSNBC and while those fires were burning in the West the presidential campaigning is heating up across the political landscape of this country Texas Governor George Bush the Philadelphia today on a triumphant note headed for the industrial Midwest and Vice President Al Gore returned from his vacation to begin his counter-attack we'll begin tonight with NBC's David Gregory who's traveling with the Bush campaign the bush-cheney ticket extends its campaign choreography to the rails today

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campaign choreography to the rails today a whistle-stop tour through the very swing states that could make the difference in November Bush doesn't mention the clinton-gore administration by name but promises quoted won't be long before America sees change it is important to have a president and vice president who will not only up hold the laws of the land but a president and vice president that will bring honor and dignity to the highest office in the land the trip is much more pep rally than policy but Bush tells reporters he's still making a first impression with many voters and will hammer home his agenda tax relief Social Security reform and his appeal as a so-called compassionate conservative David Gregory NBC News with the bush

campaign in Akron Ohio Vice President Al Gore returned from vacation today immediately launching a counter-attack to all he'd heard in Philadelphia tonight NBC's Claire Shipman is outside the vice president's residence in Washington DC Claire Tom Al Gore moved quickly today to blunt george w bush's momentum after the convention at the same time he's trying to create a little bit of momentum of his own or playing to his base in a wave of cheering firefighters in Chicago mocking Bush's assertion last night that the Democrats have wasted 8 years they said it was a time of lost opportunity that we were just coasting taking the path of least resistance I have to ask what planet have they been on and the campaign is determined to point out that Bush is not all sunny optimism I was a little surprised at how many attacks there were because they said beforehand that that they wouldn't do that Gore is looking for a boost with the announcement of his running mate on Tuesday the top three contenders Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts Senator John Edwards of North Carolina and Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut leading Democrats are betting on Kerry

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Democrats are betting on Kerry but Gore back in Washington tonight for a fundraiser hasn't revealed his hand and he says he could still surprise everyone Tom thanks very much NBC's Claire Shipman tonight 94 days and Counting now to the general election and both major party candidates were out campaigning today NBC's chip Reid is covering the gore campaign in Washington today Vice President Al Gore hoping for an endorsement from the National Association of police organizations tried to distinguish himself from George W Bush on the issue of gun control I'm gonna stand up and fight for mandatory child safety trigger locks because we all know that it's easier to childproof a gun than it is to bulletproof a child war is back on the campaign trail after a week-long vacation during which he narrowed his list of possible vice presidential candidates among them according to campaign officials Massachusetts Senator John Kerry a decorated Vietnam veteran Senator John Edwards of North Carolina a former trial lawyer and one of the party's rising stars Connecticut Senator joseph Lieberman an Orthodox Jew widely respected for his high ethical standards senator Evan Bayh of Indiana like gore the son of a senator and Dick Gephardt of Missouri though he has said publicly he does not want the job horse says his list also contains one wild card in 1992 Gore himself was a surprise choice with Clinton casting aside traditional notions of geographic and political balance the man standing beside me today has what it takes to lead this nation from the day we take office I think those considerations of balancing off and picking one from column a and one from column B that's that's out the window Democratic insiders say the most important qualities are likely to be someone al gore is comfortable with and someone who as vice president can be Al Gore's Al Gore chip Reid NBC News

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Gore's Al Gore chip Reid NBC News watched the current president kept his word today and veto the Republican supported tax cut bill which would have ended the so-called marriage penalty the reaction was swift and predictable NBC's Campbell Brown is on the road with the Republican presidential nominee day two of the post-convention campaign swing governor Bush and his running mate Dick Cheney board the train in Pontiac Michigan Bush on the attack uses President Clinton's veto of the marriage penalty to go after Vice President Gore mr. vice president gore you need to tell your partner not to veto the bill you need to have him listened to the families in America Bush's campaigning only in Michigan today rolling into small towns like Duran where he was greeted by two to 300 people mostly Republican party faithful but Bush is also trying to reach out to Democrats and independents who voted for Senator John McCain in the primary former McCain supporter Rob butts who is now backing bush says seeing the two men together on the stage at the Republican convention convinced him the old bitterness is gone to me they told me that the party was gonna call the common goal and Michigan voted for Bill Clinton in the last two general elections but it has a strong Republican Governor John Engler and the Bush campaign is convinced the state is up for grabs on this three day tour Bush has spent most of his time on a moving train the stops are brief usually under an hour in some towns the train only slows down so Bush can wave to a sprinkling of supporters the trip ends tomorrow with one last ride through another swing state Illinois Campbell Brown NBC News traveling with the Bush

campaign in Michigan the Republican ticket still running ahead in the national polls spent this day in one of the battleground states NBC's Campbell Brown reports Joliet Illinois on the final day of the bush-cheney train trip

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final day of the bush-cheney train trip through the Midwest and enthusiastic send-off from a sizeable crowd of mostly die-hard Republicans in his speech Bush zeroed in on a man carrying a union sign I appreciate the man down there carrying the Union sign we welcome you to this camp we know you're a hard-working man you bet campaign advisers say the purpose of this three-day trip was to carry their message to independents and Democrats who will likely decide the outcome of this race the bush-cheney train is rolling through some communities that have not been Republican strongholds in states that voted for the clinton-gore ticket in the last election and where polls indicate gore and his running mate could do well in Illinois the latest polls have the race as a virtual dead heat but it's only August still early in the campaign on NBC's Meet the Press today Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura said it's too early to predict what independent voters will do you know I don't know which way they'll vote you know there they can you know I'm sure there's Democrats there's Republicans and there's independence and you know how in tune they are to the political process I have no idea the trip has had its lighter moments rolling through the town of Odell one woman caught the governor's attention by the way she sent her message supporting an increase in the minimum the trip ends tonight in Springfield Illinois hometown of Republican President Abraham Lincoln the next Whistlestop tour begins Wednesday a trip through California Oregon and Washington with Senator John McCain Campbell Brown NBC News with the bush campaign in Illinois and a quick update now on our top story vice president Gore's pending decision on a running mate NBC's chip Reid is outside of Nashville hotel where gore and his top aides have been meeting chip well John no sign of anybody yet this meeting has been going on for almost two hours now and aides who are not in the meeting say they have no idea how much longer it could go but it could be quite some time they say there's a lot to discuss because Al Gore really has not

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discuss because Al Gore really has not yet made up his mind and by the way tipper gore his wife who we thought was in there is not in there she's delayed but they assure us that she will have plenty of opportunity to make her views known to the vice president they say she really is his top adviser John and chip are we getting a sense of what Vice President Gore is looking for in his vice president well we certainly are he has made very clear he wants somebody who can step into the job immediately and somebody who if necessary could step into the role of president if he had to and he has not exactly said the words but what he really wants to somebody like himself somebody like Al Gore somebody who can take on a lot of responsibility be very aggressive be deeply involved in a number of issues there are a lot of Democrats who believe al gore redefined the office of the vice presidency it's no longer somebody who just goes to foreign funerals and things like that it's somebody deeply involved in every aspect of the administrative branch and he wants somebody who can assume that kind of role John NBC's chip Reid in Nashville thank you very much good evening from nashville tennessee and one of its most familiar landmarks the Parthenon this is the heart of Al Gore country and tomorrow he will publicly announce here that he has chosen Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman as his vice presidential running mate we're moving will become the first Jewish candidate on a presidential ticket in American history the 58 year old Lieberman has known President Clinton since Clinton's Yale Law School days but he was the president sharpest critic during the impeachment process in the Democratic Party Lieberman was as surprised as everyone else by today's announcement I never dreamed of this and if you know it says to me and everyone else that everyday we're lucky enough to be alive by the grace of God is full of possibilities and miracles happen and I consider this a miracle for which I'm grateful as for the vice president he is playing out the familiar political charade of not officially confirming any of this until tomorrow's announcement here in Nashville I spent a couple of

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here in Nashville I spent a couple of hours with the vice president this morning talking about the campaign and the issues during a walk across the Vanderbilt campus where his mother was a pioneering woman in law school he talked about how he made his choice I said from the beginning of the process that the person I pick will be someone who will be instantly recognizable as somebody who can become president on a moment's notice should that ever become necessary you think that the Republicans have successfully made the behavior of President Clinton a campaign issue well I think that's something the American people will decide I think that people want the campaign to be about the future and about them but there's also a longing across the country and across party lines for heroes there probably are not a lot of parents out there saying to their teenagers I want you to grow up to be just like Bill Clinton are there well first of all I think that the American people judge the last eight years to have been a success in producing the strongest economy in history we read to you something that Joe Lieberman said President Clinton at the height of the discussion about impeachment he said such behavior is not just inappropriate it is immoral did you agree with Joe Lieberman he said that and said so at the time and you know the president said that he agreed with it at the time and I think most Americans agree with that did you talk to President Clinton about your choice I talked to the president frequently I never talk about my personal conversations with him Bush lead on Gore goes to 17 points today USA Today double-digit leads at any stage of the campaign are not good news for the guy who's in second place right uh you know I've always thought that polls were given way too much emphasis really they are almost meaningless at this stage most people have not yet begun to focus on the race they're just now starting here did you

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they're just now starting here did you watch any of the convention I watched Governor Bush's speech we were on our family vacation during that time but I did watch his speech not any of the rest of it is you think of his speech I thought parts of it were well written and well delivered I thought that he performed well I thought the showmanship of the convention was good obviously I disagreed with the substance and there were other parts of the speech that I think kind of strain belief healthcare there's a man in this diner today who says why can't we have an expanded pool to take care of people with pre-existing conditions who who are high risk I think that we should outlaw discrimination against pre-existing people with pre-existing conditions but the big issue today that relates directly to your question is the patient's Bill of Rights because when somebody has a dispute with the insurance company or HMO now they have no right to appeal outside the company I am for it my opponent is against him finally without disclosing details of any discussion that you might have with President Clinton would you be happier if he adopted an almost invisible role for the remainder of this campaign I know he's cool well first of all he's got a full-time job as they say and doing it extremely well but he likes the campaign arena is pretty obvious I think that's fair to say but I'm running this campaign on my own with my own message and vision and I welcome his help in support of that message and I expect I'll receive it by the way that conversation took place at the Elliston Place diner that's one of vice president Gore's favorite malt shops from his days at Vanderbilt University NBC's Claire Shipman broke the story of the selection of Joe Lieberman early this morning on The Today Show and she joins us now with the gore campaign well turn this this was as far as political surprises go a big one

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far as political surprises go a big one but friends say that gore has always had a certain comfort level with Lieberman and they add that despite all the speculation about all the other candidates Lieberman was always at the top of the list it's on a car phone when the call finally comes Connecticut Senator joseph Lieberman agrees to serve as Al Gore's running mate we had a great conversation a little bit of shared prayer and gratitude to God for bringing both of us to this moment it's a bold move by Gore to put an Orthodox Jew on his ticket a decision he wrestled with until early this morning when sources say the choice basically came down to freshman North Carolina Senator John Edwards or Lieberman a revered figure in the Senate even Republicans can barely come up with criticism Joe is a man of rare ability integrity and I think that that is something a statement that the gore campaign needed to make one reason Republicans like Lieberman he's a political moderate a hawk on foreign policy a critic of sex and violence on TV and that is

crucial for Gore who's looking for independent and even Republican support as he watches george w bush reach for democrats Lieberman's language Lieberman's message the values the morality components appeals not only to Democrats but independents and Republicans in fact in some ways the Lieberman morality message actually appeals more to swing voters than it does to traditional Democrats and Lieberman's moral authority is a boost to the ticket in other ways say advisers he was the first Democrat to criticize President Clinton for the Lewinsky affair such behavior is not just inappropriate it is immoral but even Clinton remains a fan I think he's one of the most outstanding people in public life now some gore advisors admit they

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life now some gore advisors admit they don't know how the public will react to the nation's first Jewish candidate but gore told an advisor last night he would not make his decision based on religion other advisors add that voters don't like it those are voters who probably wouldn't have voted for Al Gore and Tom thanks very much NBC's Claire Shipman tonight senator Lieberman may be well known inside Washington and his home region of New England but much of the rest of America will get to know him in the next several days as he is introduced as the vice president's running me more on his record and his background tonight from NBC's and Thompson Joe Lieberman know more for his thoughts than his charm a workhorse colleagues say rather than a show horse Joe as a person who's willing to get the job done and worry about who gets credit for it later on a dozen years in the Senate for burning a reputation as its conscience taking on Hollywood handing out silver sewer awards for violent and sexually explicit movies and TV shows they need to understand the feeling of disgust and frustration that is spreading across America perhaps most famous for taking on the president for behavior Lieberman says repulsed him he failed to show I think that he understood his behavior had diminished the office he holds and the country he serves his moral outlook rooted in his faith an Orthodox Jew who observes the Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday traditionally refusing to campaign during that time but willing to work on what he considers important legislation it doesn't define his public policy positions but I think it's really the perspective from which he begins to look at any question that comes his way Lieberman's political education began here in New Haven burning undergraduate and law degrees from Yale broadens of politics he says by John Kennedy running for the Connecticut State Senate in 1970 one of his campaign volunteers was Bill Clinton but Lieberman is not the typical

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Clinton but Lieberman is not the typical northeast Liberal Democrat and he differs from Al Gore on many issues lieberman supports school vouchers partially privatizing Social Security and a cut in the capital gains tax and he split with the administration opposing welfare reform and clinton's health care plan he is a absolute positive moderate now the number two on the Democratic ticket taking his second wife Hadassah and his four children into the political spotlight and after tomorrow's announcement into the history books and Thompson NBC News New Haven naming a Jewish man to a presidential ticket is groundbreaking there are six million Jews in America two percent of the population so how will it play with the American voters tonight NBC's Lisa Myers continues our in-depth reporting with a look at both ends of the American spectrum for neo-nazis and hate groups that operate on the Internet the Lieberman announcement is a call to arms today chat rooms overflowing with hateful words messages with the potential to reach millions these are the activists these are the true believers and for them this is an opportunity to rally around the flag of hate and to use it as an opportunity to recruit and to spread their message I do not believe that this will spill over into the mainstream in fact Jewish leaders say that while anti-semitism clearly still exists they say the reaction to Lieberman is overwhelmingly positive on late-night TV he's treated just like anyone else as political fodder Gore and Lieberman it sounds like one of those discount personal injury law firms we can help you out we will get you all the money Christian conservatives applaud the choice of this Orthodox Jew his religion is not a negative at all I think if anything it's a positive certainly without the angelical Christians poll show anti-semitism has declined sharply in 1958 only 62% of Americans said they

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in 1958 only 62% of Americans said they would vote for a qualified Jewish candidate last year 92 percent said they would today 11 members of the United States Senate are Jewish but polls show there are still tensions between Jewish and black Americans a 1997 poll finds 24 percent of blacks say they have a mostly or very unfavorable view of Jews in the Jewish community today great pride one rabbi calls lieberman's break through the political equivalent of a Jew landing on the moon it's extremely exciting I think it adds wonderful flavor and zest to the campaign but there is concern too about an anti Jewish backlash and the Jews will be blamed if we lose my very and natural reaction was that vice president for unfortunately did himself in the majority of the country is not ready to accept a Jewish vice president lieberman's religion does affect him as a candidate as an Orthodox Jew he strictly observes the Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday during that time he doesn't drive talk on the phone or campaign tonight Jewish leaders hailed the choice of and reaction to Lieberman as a milestone reflecting the political maturity and tolerance of the country they say the next few months will be a test of him and of the nation Lisa Myers NBC News Washington also in California tonight the Reform Party convention got underway and the big question tonight is whose party is it the bitter divisions between Pat Buchanan's supporters and their rivals boiled over today and the party formally split in two NBC's Lisa Myers is there tonight the force is a pitchfork Pat Buchanan did they literally seize control of the Reform Party turning back opposing delegates we all want to enter and take our seats in

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all want to enter and take our seats in the convention who then split off to hold their own convention with his party's presidential nomination seemingly in hand you can advance to terrorize the political establishment this fall we're gonna give George W and his friend Prince Albert the fight of their lives the party that Ross Perot built has always had its eccentricities but this week it resembles a circus replete with shoving and shouting matches the founders of the Reform Party claim that they essentially invited you into their home that you trashed it and then threw them out they did invite us in and we have not sought to drive them out but they do feel quite frankly I think that sort of you know we came in and won the girl and they don't want to just be an usher at the wedding upon its charge Buchanan has stolen the party taking it to the far right on issues like abortion and immigration they vowed to take their fight to court to deny Buchanan twelve point six million dollars in federal funds and to offer their own nominee a quantum physicist this is no home for exclusivity for bigotry for intolerance but in the end it may not matter much what little support Buchanan had earlier this year has all but evaporated in this his third try for the presidency he's down to only one percent in most polls now what do you say to those who say Pat Buchanan is toast it's well I can say he's been toasted twice but I think he's trying it one more time you cannon predicts that when he leaves this tranquil setting conservatives will begin to see him as a viable alternative to two candidates fighting for the political middle but until that happens even some supporters say Pat Buchanan has become politically irrelevant Lisa Myers NBC News Long Beach California who's in depth tonight Al Gore on the

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who's in depth tonight Al Gore on the verge of his biggest political moment but it's turning into a bumpy road to Los Angeles for the vice president the Democratic National Convention gets underway on Monday but tonight the man in the spotlight is the outgoing president whose very candid remarks about the Lewinsky scandal yesterday at given Gore's opponent George W Bush some fresh political ammunition NBC's David Gregory with the bush campaign tonight on the west coast governor Bush campaigning in Oregon today issues a new challenge to his opponent if ice President Gore wants to distance himself from the scandals of the Clinton administration he should make a clean break from his balls you hear they're part of an administration you're not part of how I view it and if al gore's got differences with the president he ought to be Auto Sam loud and clear what they are the fallout today is from the president's confessional of sorts yesterday in Illinois before an audience of Ministers Clinton said whatever political baggage remains from the Monica Lewinsky impeachment scandal is his not the vice president he doesn't get enough credit for what

we did together that is good and surely no fair-minded person would blame him for any mistake that I made the Texas governor does not blame Gore for the president's conduct but he does use the administration's impeachment saga to his benefit a week ago in Pittsburgh it is important to have a president and vice president who will not only uphold the laws of the land but a president and vice president that will bring honor and dignity to the highest office of the land but today Bush's running mate Dick Cheney in an interview with The Associated Press says Gore should not be held accountable for Clinton's failings responsible for Clinton's mistakes no I don't think so he said still a major distraction for the gore campaign President Clinton once again grabbing headlines for the Lewinsky scandal the vice president today downplays the significance of Clinton's remarks well I appreciate what the president said he's said it before and I think that he also

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said it before and I think that he also went on to say that this election as all elections is about the future and not about the past tonight the vice president's aides and says there's little more to be said about the president's conduct that Americans care to hear the question for the fall however is whether too much damage has already been done to both Clinton and gore David Gregory NBC News Portland whether Gore's association with his boss hurts him with Women Voters isn't entirely clear but it is clear that Gore is not doing nearly as well with women as Bill Clinton did before the Lewinsky mess in two national elections Clinton won women by wide margins but according to the latest NBC news/wall Street Journal poll George W Bush is leading Gore among women 45 to 44 percent NBC's Claire Shipman spent some time with gore on his farm in Tennessee and talked to him about some of his most important relationships with his most did advisors the women in his life Al Gore courting the women's vote today and are you from New Philadelphia he needs their support to win but governor Bush is making dangerous inroads many find it a puzzling problem for Google by every normal standard he should have a strong woman vote he's always been strong on those issues and he does have strong women behind him indeed though Gore may be best known as the son of a famous senator friends say it's the women in his life who have most shaped him Gore's mother or miss Pauline as she's known as the matriarch she was one of the first women to graduate from Vanderbilt Law School in the 1930s and though she gave up her career friends say she's the source of Gore's savvy smarts and ambition public service is the position that you should aspire to and do the best you can to make this a better world so one of the many things you taught your son that's an unusual lesson to have a mother like that

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lesson to have a mother like that who did what she did I think very specifically that he never occurred to him that women should have any limits from the moment they met as teenagers Mary Elizabeth or tipper was the woman who could help the reserved owl relax I've learned so much from temperament I've learned a lot about myself about the importance of the heart as opposed to the head a budding photographer and psychologist she was not counting on a political life when he first decided to run I told him I campaigned for him on my days off but tipper gore turned photography into a hobby and like her mother-in-law became a partner in her husband's career as first lady friends say she continued her public work on mental health and the homeless and her role as her husband's number-one advisor mrs. gore was a critical force in moving the campaign to Nashville in the choice of Joe Lieberman as a running mate and in pushing her husband years ago to an ardent pro-choice position on abortion people think and developed in their thinking and he did and he listened to man Gore also relies heavily on the advice of his oldest daughter Karina a recent Law School graduate and a new mother and a visible presence on the campaign trail she pushed him last winter to campaign using town meetings she gives him one-liners for debates and she weighs in on women's issues it's really important to me that he is out there saying you know we should make it easier for them to spend time with their kids but can these women help Gore appeal to other women those women have the keys to unlock him at least in their own relationships with him but I'm sure that they have tried harder than anybody to transfer that into a larger realm and and so far it's been with modest success still advisers think just showing Gore around his family helps and so at the Democratic convention next week look for all of

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convention next week look for all of Gore's women to be on prominent display Claire Shipman NBC News Carthage Tennessee no dispute about who the Democratic Party will nominate and that man Vice President Gore is slowly making his way here NBC's chip Reid is with him tonight the road to Los Angeles passed through the battleground state of Pennsylvania today where the issue of the day was the environment I became the subject of a lot of attacks and I want you to know how where those attacks as a badge of honor challenging the nation to make the next 10 years the decade of the environment the vice president highlighted his proposals to fight global warming including a tax break of up to six thousand dollars for consumers who purchased fuel-efficient cars and houses those who deny global warming are just flat-out wrong it is the real threat that we must confront and provide leadership for chose springdale Pennsylvania to talk about the environment because it was the home of the late Rachel Carson he credits Carson with turning him into an environmentalist as a teenager when he read her book Silent Spring the Vice President got a lesson in wastewater treatment except the oil does absorb the oil but not the water for campaign aides say the environment will be one of the top issues in this campaign in part because Gore himself feels so passionately about it and because they believe governor george w bush is vulnerable on his environmental record in texas Gore's running mate joseph Lieberman spent the Sabbath back in Washington with his family attending temple as usual for a second stop of the day was in another crucial state Ohio before arriving in Los Angeles for the Democratic National Convention next week there will also be stops in Michigan and Missouri two more states that campaign aides expect to be closely contested chip Reid NBC News traveling with the gore campaign these policies we now join our program already in progress I think

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our program already in progress I think that by the time the speech is over with that they will have a pretty good sense of what's important to me and who I am and they'll know the specifics of what I'm proposing to do for them already in Los Angeles two of gores daughters spent the day volunteering at a food bank from Ohio the vice president heads to two other Midwest battleground states Missouri and Michigan arriving to much fanfare on Wednesday at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles chip Reid NBC News Cleveland Gore's rotting maid spent this day on the move here's NBC's Anne Thompson today Joe Lieberman in the hot seat quizzed about his differences with Al Gore issues that could potentially split the Democratic ticket school vouchers Lieberman is for them Gore's not will you continue to press for vouchers within the gore administration yeah I will within the privacy of our relationship but never publicly privatizing Social Security Gore opposes it Lieberman at one time considered it I've looked at it and I've decided it shouldn't be looked at not in the way that george w bush and i voted that way in 1999 and a resolution during the Lewinsky scandal lieberman condemned bill clinton's behavior it is immoral yet gore at a White House rally after the House impeach the president called Clinton great I'm gonna leave the exact words for history but I think he has done some great things as president which makes the personal mistakes that he made even sadder Lieberman's presence on the ticket after his criticism of the president may be helping the gore campaign with Clinton fatigue the latest NBC Wall Street Journal poll finds 23 percent of voters now feel more favorable to Gore five percent less favorable but seventy percent are unchanged today Lieberman made his case on all five Network interview shows consistent answers sometimes word-for-word here on a mother's concern

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word-for-word here on a mother's concern about Hollywood's influence I feel she said as if I'm in a competition with the entertainment industry to raise my kids and they're winning and Lieberman who will accept his party's nomination here Sandra's the capital of the entertainment industry claims he will not back down from his criticism of what he says is Hollywood's excessive use of sex and violence nor will he back away from policy differences with Gore we've argued we've debated and I think that's what progress comes from today the senator known for his principles saying he is not abandoning them arguing his differences with Gore will not split the ticket but strengthen it Ann Thompson NBC News Los Angeles usually at these conventions the ticket gets the bulk of attention not so this time though President Clinton has made some attempts to lower his profile he still cast a large shadow here more now from NBC's John Palmer some are

calling it The Long Goodbye President Clinton's five days in Los Angeles leading up to his farewell convention speech tomorrow night a series of parties speeches fundraisers and get-togethers are being held with various groups including Labor Jewish Hispanic and black supporters the Clintons attended a star-studded Hollywood gala until the early hours of this morning raking in millions of dollars for Hillary Rodham Clinton's New York Senate campaign and the Democratic National Committee and mr. Clinton gave a sample of the speech he'll give to the convention delegates tomorrow night because of you and the other Americans who gave me a chance to serve I had a chance to save lives and lift lives I hope I made some little kids and forgotten people think that they still counted today the president attended a lavish private brunch at the secluded Malibu home of entertainer Barbra Streisand raised

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Streisand raised ten million dollars for the Clinton Presidential Library the president speech tomorrow night will highlight the economic progress of the past eight years and lay out the differences between the Democratic and Republican national tickets aides say mr. Clinton will not make any mention of his personal misconduct while in office John Palmer NBC News Los Angeles the moment these conventions are designed for comes Thursday when Vice President Gore accepts his party's nomination it will be the biggest day of his political life NBC's Jonathan alter has more he's pressed the flesh how babies campaigned for 14 months but despite the best economic conditions in a generation and a historic choice for a running mate Al Gore comes to this convention hall with a major selling job to do it's unusual that at this late stage in his career we have to be introduced to the real Al Gore but one of his big problems is we've not met him most people know him there's two things number one Clinton's vice president number two a good family man and they know chip and bike her and that's about it there's a lot more to him and he's got to tell people about for more than half a century convention acceptance speeches have often been critical in 1948 underdog harry truman used his acceptance speech to attack what he called a do-nothing Congress I must have your house you must get an end push and win this election the country can't afford another Republican Congress even one in November a victory so surprising a headline letter got it wrong John F Kennedy 'he's acceptance speech challenged the nation to set new goals a new frontier which I speak of promises challenges

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which I speak of promises challenges that were met were speech will be a high-wire act balancing disapproval of the president's moral behavior with fierce support for the administration's policies and unlike most politicians who rely heavily on speech writers the vice president former journalist wrote this one himself Jonathan alter NBC News and joining us from the convention floor to talk through all of this NBC's Tom Brokaw and three of our colleagues have been Criss crossing the country on this campaign Tom John thank you I'm here with just part of the NBC a team Claire Shipman of course who has been covering the gore campaign Lisa Myers and NBC's Andrea Mitchell are with us sir let's begin with you this Bill Clinton realize this is no longer his convention good question I think that a lot of gore advisors wish he would realize that but at the same time it's interesting because the gore team really is looking for the silver lining in all of this and here's what they say first of all this is the most natural time for the spotlight to be on Clinton and it's gonna fade pretty fast when he gets out of town second they say look he may be the best person to make a strong case that the last eight years have not been a waste especially in terms of the prosperity third they're hoping the moment will serve as a type of Clinton catharsis once he leaves town that the spotlight will finally shift to Al Gore will say well we have more than just one Clinton here Andrea Hillary Clinton is here as well not just as the first lady but as the US Senate candidate from New York always been competition for the spotlight between Al Gore as vice president and Hillary Clinton in fact Al Gore wanted the health care account I guess he's glad he didn't get it but she took it over so again Hillary Clinton is stealing his spotlight and his cash by raising so much money here for his Senate campaign and for the Clintons library they're really cutting into Al Gore's time here with the big Hollywood donors and that is deeply resented one of the gore people saying to me you know other first ladies have

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to me you know other first ladies have not had primetime speeches here Lisa as we learned in Philadelphia these conventions these days are less about nominating candidates and much more about raising money these days the Democrats are every bit as guilty as shaking the money tree as hard as they can as the Republicans were in Philadelphia absolutely Tom that sucking sound you hear is the sound of millions of dollars of soft cash being sucked out of Hollywood and the other business interests in this city for the ticket today which is the brunch at Barbra Streisand's home Presidential Library four million dollars last night for Hillary Clinton's Senate campaign millions more for Al Gore Al Gore likes to say that the Democrats are the party of the people the Republicans are sore the powerful Grammy but this week here in LA it's the powerful we're getting all the face guys alright last chance guys this is a shake and bake convention fluff and draw any surprises this week at all Claire they're not looking for a lot of surprises what they're looking to do is try to paint a contrast between this convention and the Republican convention and if they're able to do that and say we were substance they were cotton candy they'll be happy maybe the surprise this week is that Democrats feel this good coming into the convention two weeks ago they were buried down Al Gore has had a great week people are much more energized and in food believe there's a chance he wrote George W Bush in November the Lieberman Factor uh major reason for that yes first of all they didn't think Al Gore had it in him and secondly they think they like the energy that they see with that ticket they think that they see Al Gore becoming more comfortable as a candidate they like the body language they like the the images and now we'll see if he can give a heck of a speech Andrea well I think that they are trying to paint a picture of Al Gore but the surprising thing to me is why are they still trying to introduce Al Gore to the American people after eight years that's the challenge can he deliver a well-written speech and do a good job with it well Al Gore seems to be

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with it well Al Gore seems to be conflicted in his own mind he said just today he'd be willing to consult with President Clinton in the future if he were president seen it from Al Gore for a year but but I think they have decided that it is not appropriate at this point to try to ignore the president and he has to embrace him at least in terms of the successes of the administration I'll be really happy when you get that we're shipping Lisa Myers Andrew Mitchell thank you very much we'll be seeing a lot more of you during the course of our coverage on an NBC and MSNBC DC finally another first at this democratic gathering in Los Angeles the use of a high-tech card that opens the door to the information superhighway the Republicans may have gone first but the Democrats have been bragging that their convention will be truly the first digital convention some 10,000 smart cards one for each delegate or alternate and extras for VIPs and members of the media all containing personalized electronic information the card works in kiosks like this there are 90 of them at delegate hotels and around this Convention Center using touchscreen technology users will be able to get directions to the Convention Center schedules on platform debates even exchange instant messages you can actually talk to people and ask for information people are saying what do I wear is it cold inside this is my first time I'm 18 years old am I the youngest delegate the internet-based planning software created by a small Southern California company connects 30,000 people here the Democrats have invited delegates to bring along their own digital assistants - there will be 96 docking stations located throughout the convention floor and for the first time in any political convention a state delegation will cast its vote for the nominee with the results instantly available to the

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results instantly available to the public both on the convention floor and on the internet the party plans to make the entire convention available on the internet on a web cast which lets people navigate through 360-degree views and even view clips of behind the scene chats and after hour parties but even at this 21st century big event some things are still done the old-fashioned way there are 150,000 of those balloons all biodegradable hanging from the rafters here ready to drop on Thursday when Hal Gore accept his party's nomination back here in Los Angeles Bill and Hillary Clinton are getting all they can out of their final lap as president and first lady staying out late with Hollywood stars raising millions of dollars for his Presidential Library and her New York Senate campaign NBC's Claire Shipman tonight on the president's big evening

ahead here Claire Tom the president addresses the convention tonight and this is a speech he is taking very seriously he canceled two meetings today to prepare look for a lot of nice words about Al Gore but don't expect any overt jabs at george w bush or any more apologies it may be his vice president's show but for today at least Bill Clinton is the top draw in Los Angeles this afternoon touting his foreign policy achievements looking back I think we'll all say that the 1990s were democracy's decade the focus of Clinton's convention speech tonight the nation's unprecedented prosperity a success he'll claim for himself and gore in the most difficult days of the last year's Clinton will say when we face the toughest issues gore was always there the vice president is still making his way to Los Angeles today campaigning in Independence Missouri tell us your name you are he and his team looking forward to a symbolic handoff of the spotlight with the president in Michigan tomorrow

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president in Michigan tomorrow core advisors say they're not trying to rush the president out of town but you can sense just how eager they are to turn this into the vice president's show starting tomorrow Tom thank you very much NBC's Claire Shipman and the preliminaries are already underway as you can hear on the floor of this convention Hillary Clinton's dual roles as first lady and candidate for the US Senate are on full display here in Los Angeles she spent part of her day and the social and fundraising world has been going on for the three days now that she's been here and tonight a primetime speaking slot introducing her husband as he hands the political range to Al Gore I spoke with mrs. Clinton today about the reported tensions between the Clintons and Gore's over the how they've handled the transfer well I think it's at the low levels if it exists at all because certainly Al and Tipper and bill and I know exactly what all of us are trying to do which is to make clear the case for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman and you know when bill gives his speech tonight it's going to be a summing up and a retrospective to some extent but mostly about where we need to go now switching to your own campaign you think that there's any kind of anyone but Hillary factor out there in New York there probably is for some people I want people to just have an informed opinion when they go into the polling booth if if they know exactly why they're for or against a candidate then that's totally fair how come you're not doing better among the constituencies that should be your natural followers white women in New York for example you bumped up some but you're still trailing I've only been running against my second opponent for about two months and he's not yet really owned up to where he stands on issues and what his record is that's what the next three months will be about but it's not that you're unknown or that your positions are unknown and still you bumped up to a certain threshold and you don't seem to get over it no Tom what's been amazing to me is how little people did know about the 30 years of work I did as a child advocate I have been a strong and consistent

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I have been a strong and consistent voice for children and families and women for many years and I would do the same in the Senate for New York in the closing days of the campaign say the last two weeks Bill and Hillary side-by-side the president introducing you at every stop I'd love to have as much help as I can from him but I've got to you know wait my turn with all the other Democratic candidates who want his help there isn't anybody who can oh you must have some kind of a little claim on it well I'm hoping to I'm hoping I can kind of move up the schedule when your opposition begins to whisper that she only wants to get to the Senate so she can run for president of the United States does Matt hurt you some in New York well you know I've said I'm gonna fill my full six-year term but you wouldn't mind one day standing before a convention like this and saying I accept your nomination I've seen this up close and personal time you know I think that it's a big price that anybody has to pay to do this and right now for me the most important job we face is electing Al Gore and Joe Lieberman now to presidential politics for today the focus shifted from here in Los Angeles for a time to Monroe Michigan a suburb of Detroit's that the Democrats held up as an example of the prosperity of the last eight years President Clinton met with Vice President Gore to hand off the party leadership and finally the political spotlight with one more endorsement he is the right person to be the first president of the 21st century Bill Clinton worked hard to get this economy right and I'm pledging to you here

today I am NOT gonna let the other side wreck it and take it away from us we're gonna keep the prosperity going and for the first time in memory the president walked away from the crowd and let Vice President Gore work the rope line alone Gore arrives in Los Angeles tomorrow Thursday he'll deliver the most

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tomorrow Thursday he'll deliver the most important political speech of his life accepting the presidential nomination and before the Clintons of Los Angeles they raised an estimated 14 million dollars for his Presidential Library and her Senate campaign and guess what there's still a lot of green to be gathered out here NBC's Lisa Myers reports tonight for all the talk about campaign finance reform these political conventions have become giant ATMs for the parties outdoors virtually every stop claims there's a big difference between Democrats and Republicans we're for the people and not the powerful but a meta blur of limousines these aren't rich and powerful Republicans partying here this week they're Democrats when is this break it's just like reading the Oscar and just as at the Republican convention in Philadelphia some of the biggest corporations in America are picking up the tab some thirty five million dollars it makes 1996 which was a year of immense fundraising scandals look quaint pale in comparison there is no shame there is no outrage at all at least nine companies all with important business in Washington have given at least a million dollars all perfectly legal they include General Motors Microsoft AT&T Motorola is providing five and a half million dollars worth of cell phones and pagers it doesn't seem that that giving a pager to a congressman is really going to buy us either access or influence what would happen if you didn't give money for one of these conventions I think I competitors what give it what gen3 good the Democrats are raising tons of money $15,000 for golf with California governor Gray Davis $100,000 a couple to benefit the Clinton Library no one knows just how much money is changing hands here this week that part has kept well out of public view but critics insists that despite what Al

01:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-0LX83coqM&t=5040s)

critics insists that despite what Al Gore says Democrats and Republicans share an insatiable appetite for cash Lisa Myers NBC News Los Angeles and in the great tradition of President Jimmy Carter who's here tonight we are still the world's leading force for human rights around the world Thank You President Carter that was President Clinton's tribute to former President Jimmy Carter last night here today the former president who's often had strained relations with Clinton said that Al Gore to be successful still has to separate himself even more from the Monica Lewinsky scandal I talked to President Carter here in the hall about life after the White House if President Clinton were to come to you and say look you've been through this before what do I do here for the next several months what would you say I would tell him to stay out of the limelight if I were here I would not bring up again impeachment No yeah the whole Monica I wouldn't bring it up again I don't think he's good enough by now you think I think so and I think the average person in America feels the same way what's the hardest part about leaving the presidency for the first three months not knowing what's he gonna do I found out after the election was over from my blind trustee that I was a million dollars in debt I was going back to our tiny town of plains where no job opportunities existed so I had a total transformation to make in my life and then I settled down and wrote a very successful memoir keeping faith and paid off my debts with with the income and then I launched the Carter Center which has been a very fulfilling thing this has been the greatest years of my life my fellow Americans the future of our country is now in your hands but I have to say at present 10 is much more you might say a political animal and I ever watched whether he likes it or not there won't be any major role for him to play in politics in the future and don't

01:26:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-0LX83coqM&t=5161s)

play in politics in the future and don't stop thinking about tomorrow he has ahead of him I think a better and more enjoyable and adventurous life that he can possibly anticipate tonight the memories of another former president 40 years after he was nominated here in Los Angeles John F Kennedy daughter Caroline Kennedy schwozberg will speak introducing her uncle senator Ted Kennedy NBC's Claire Shipman today sat down

with Caroline the most private member of the Kennedy clan Caroline Kennedy telling us today hours before her speech that it was her uncle Ted who convinced her to go public and the memory of her father nominated here in Los Angeles 40 years ago do you think is this the first of what might be more frequent appearances in an effort to get people in into public life well I think it's so important and as you know my brother did too so the more we can all do to get people involved I think the better off our country will be there's nobody I'd be wanted more to introduce me and I'm delighted that and honored that she that she will the Carolina cares very deeply about so many of these these issues so far Caroline Kennedy's public appearances have been limited largely to the profile and courage Awards and her father's honor and she's kept an even lower profile in the year after her brother's death but friends and relatives say she feels a strong duty to encourage public service a lot of people think you might deserve a Profile in Courage Award for agreeing to speak tonight you've been such an advocate for privacy you've written two books on the subject well it's difficult to say no to teddy though I know it's it's fun it really is fun and I think that you know I do get around I do get out of my house are you nervous at all right yeah I am nervous I'm nervous I have I do a good job she and her uncle both say they'll

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job she and her uncle both say they'll make a strong pitch tonight for Al Gore I think he really will do a lot to help kids and health care and the Supreme Court is something that's important to me so I'm happy to do all I can to help him get elected there's so much emotion invested in you in this country and so many people look at you and think about your father I think about your mother or they think about your brother with this speech and this role are you ready to have people start thinking about you Caroline Kennedy as somebody who has worked hard to inspire people well I you know I think it's great and I feel so lucky that they do people really have reached out to me and and admire my parents and that really means a lot to me so you know I hope I can continue some of that work and so like her brother in 1988 tonight she'll be one of the biggest draws of the convention a private woman carrying on the family's most public tradition Claire Shipman NBC News Los Angeles NBC News in-depth tonight Joe Lieberman in the spotlight Al Gore's choice for vice president will address the Democratic National Convention here in Los Angeles after making a splashy entrance in the convention hall last night riding a wave of adrenaline since his surprise election last week I talked to him about his experience so far what he expects in the campaign to come when you came into this hall surrounded by your new security cordon yeah and like a rock star everybody wanted to have a piece of Joe Lieberman what were you thinking at that moment tonight was one of the highlights there was such warm such excitement in the crowd you've now taken a big step toward becoming possibly one heartbeat away from the presidency you know and I must say I'm still in awe but in the end I appreciate his confidence so you have to look into yourself and say I love this

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look into yourself and say I love this country and I'm ready to serve you're running for the Senate simultaneously yes a reelection a lot of people were saying he's just hedging his bets he doesn't have a lot of confidence that he's gonna get all the way to the big house in November well I just have all sorts of confidence that the gore Lieberman ticket is gonna get elected if you're ahead if it looks like you're gonna win the big race would you think about allowing another Democrat to run for your Senate seat no I have no prison intention of withdrawing from the Senate because my decision to stay on has nothing to do with my calculations about the outcome of the presidential race you have been an outspoken critic of the entertainment values of Hollywood the place where you'll accept the nomination you're here why not go meet with them now we've been in dialogue on this for some some years the average family trying to raise their kids feels that they're in competition with the entertainment in this to give their kids values and I want to try to help those families raise their kids the way they want to no one in your party was more outspoken in your criticism of President Clinton during the Lewinsky scandal than you were it is immoral and it is harmful President Clinton called me Monday morning after this election was announced we had a great conversation he was extremely gracious I'm so proud of so much that he's done that I I felt so upset that he was jeopardizing it and he and I spoke about it he called me about a week after my speech and we had a long

personal spiritual conversation about it given the strength of your feelings on that subject isn't it appropriate for the Republicans to make the Department of President Clinton in the Oval Office a campaign issue that is legitimate to the American public I don't think it is Tom it would be unfair to blame al gore for Bill Clinton's troubles I mean I find it ironic that the Republicans are campaigning against a man who's not on a ballot this year maybe because you know they don't want

01:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-0LX83coqM&t=5520s)

maybe because you know they don't want to campaign directly against Al Gore there'll be a great president I'm to detract from Al Gore's appearance tonight the speech he hopes will persuade America he's his own man NBC's Claire Shipman is covering that angle for us Claire tonker advisers tonight are calling the leak a typical Republican game but frankly right now they're far more concerned about Al Gore's ability to give a campaign altering speech tonight the Vice President holed up here in his hotel room all day today writing part of what he'll say tonight for all our good times I am not satisfied he'll tell young people this is your time to make new the life of our world and he'll declare that our future is at stake and if you entrust me with the presidency I will work for you every day it's a critical address and one that advisors say needs to accomplish two very different things most important of all is that he's clean and concrete and direct about what the policy choices are I want to know who outdoor is where he comes from and why he feels so deeply about these things to compete with Clinton's dramatic entrance Gore plans a triumphant Walk This Way through what will be a delegate packed Hall up to the platform perhaps the most interesting thing about the speech so far is that Al Gore has written most of it himself in between campaign appearances on a new laptop his aides have helped him shape it they told him edit it but Gore says either the credit or the blame will belong to him Tom thanks very much NBC's Claire Shipman tonight and as in everything else in the vice president's life his wife tipper gore she's about to become an even more familiar woman in American politics the potential first lady always a factor in a presidential campaign NBC's Lisa Myers tonight on the woman who captured Al Gore's heart at first sight tipper gore reverses today for tonight's big challenge convincing voters the man some

01:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-0LX83coqM&t=5640s)

challenge convincing voters the man some see as stiff guy in a suit is actually much more no photo-essay she shot herself she'll provide an intimate portrait of the man she sees sexy funny loving after 30 years of marriage humanizing him now her mission on the first date I will be president before him bodies many of the qualities her husband is set to laugh she's natural yeah thank you for coming out thank you so much fun loving she won't talk much about what she do is first lady but says she'll keep crusading for the mentally ill and still go out on the streets and coax the homeless into shelter keeps me grounded gives me something that I really care about and I am dealing with another human being on an ongoing basis that is very meaningful and very joyful for me she's one of her husband's closest advisors but not as overtly political as Hillary Clinton would Al Gore restore honesty and dignity to the Oval Office Al Gore represents integrity and character conviction steadfastness it's clear that your husband is suffering politically because of President Clinton's misbehavior people are gonna be looking to the future and they're gonna be looking to a president that has experience it was said that you were even more upset than your husband about the whole Monica Lewinsky matter I would imagine that everyone in the country was upset about that and we all want to put it behind us was conspicuously absent from the White House pep rally the day President Clinton was impeached but she dismisses persistent all the shouting stopped today it moved around the country Al Gore's big speech is over the Democratic ticket flew out of here overnight and onto the campaign trail an NBC News poll taken right after Vice President Gore delivered his speech finds the Democratic ticket is moving up

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finds the Democratic ticket is moving up of those polled 46% said if the election were held today they would vote for Gore 43 percent said Bush Pat Buchanan 1% Ralph Nader - taking the margin of error into account the poll shows gore and bush in a statistical dead heat even though this kind of bump is customary after the

convention even though all poll NBC News in depth tonight a battle over the US military being fought on the campaign trail now Governor George W Bush has been making an issue of US military readiness saying it has suffered in the past eight years the gore campaign and the White House say that is not true and as NBC's David Gregory tells us in depth this battle could turn into a war as the fall campaign wears on governor Bush today in Ohio with a promise he thinks is among the most potent of his campaign I will rebuild a military power of the United States of America we build because Bush argues the military has steadily declined under President Clinton and Al Gore appointment again yesterday by Bush running mate and former defense secretary Dick Cheney eight years of multiplying missions with unclear goals eight years during which the enemies of freedom have not been idle eight years is a long time and eight years is long enough Bush has low pay low morale and overall military readiness our real problems not poll-tested positions but senior advisers acknowledge this issue is crucial to the campaign strategy first they believe it resonates with the critical independent voters many of them veterans who flocked to John McCain because of his war record second they think Bush's calls to strengthen the military boost his standing as a leader making him appear strong and well-informed on worldly matters most importantly it appeals to male voters and it's a good way to really gin up the mailboat especially out in these battleground Midwestern states voters like Tim Whittaker who listen to Bush in Ohio today we're being called on since

01:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-0LX83coqM&t=5880s)

Ohio today we're being called on since we are the sole military power in the world right now to really spread ourselves kind of thin across the world hates say attacking the administration on military matters serves the larger goal of undermining the vice president's leadership and credibility aboard Air Force two last night Gore swings back the current Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs responded to that and I think they've done so very effectively we have the strongest military in the world by far and we reverse the declines that began in the

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